## **REMARKS**

<u>Claims in the Application.</u> Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 17-24 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

<u>Conclusions.</u> The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2009

John Wilson Jones

Joh Wels for

Registration No. 31,380

JONES & SMITH LLP 2777 Allen Parkway, Suite 800

Houston, Texas 77019

Telephone No.: (713) 528-3100 Facsimile No.: (713) 893-6076